

Office of Recovery Services - Budget Cuts Impact Human Services

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The closing of the Legislative General Session for 2009 did not come quite soon enough for ORS. In the waning hours of the last day, our office was cut an additional \$1 million in General Fund. This is on top of the \$700,000 we lost earlier in the session. The good news is the legislature backfilled \$250,000 for fiscal year 2010, but this will fall far short of what is needed to run our day-to-day operations. There is some stimulus money available to offset the cuts, but because of the artificial cap placed on our ability to draw from the stimulus it will not be nearly enough.

We are working on other items to see what can be done to maximize our share of the stimulus. If successful, this will take much of the pressure off our office through fiscal year 2011. If not, we will need to find creative ways to manage our budget to mitigate layoffs.

These are truly challenging times that will require we all make sacrifices and work together to find solutions. We have an outstanding, dedicated group of employees and I'm confident we can work through this together.